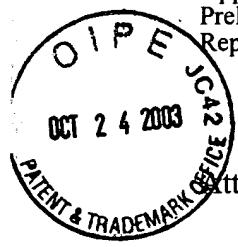


Appl. No. 09/701,065  
Preliminary Amendment dated October 21, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003



RECEIVED  
OCT 28 2003  
TC 1700  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 002013 USA P/DSM/PMD/JW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: )  
Fabrice Geiger et al. )  
U.S. Serial No: 09/701,065 )  
Filed: February 12, 2001 )  
For: Methods For Forming Self-Planarized )  
Dielectric Layer For Shallow Trench Isolation )  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 21, 2003 and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed concurrently herewith, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter this preliminary amendment and consider the remarks prior to examination of the above referenced case.

**FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on October 21, 2003

Date of Deposit

Claire Wallters

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Claire Wallters

Signature

10/21/2003

Date

10/27/2003 AWONDAF1 00000115 09701065

02 FC:1252

420.00 OP